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## POSTSCRIPTS.

I am surprised that Prof. ZUPITZA finds any difficulty in the phrase "seken to halwes." The use of "to" after "seek," where motion is implied, is as old as the language; and I have no doubt that a catena of examples might be given, from "seceað to Sweona leode" ('Béowulf') and "sechen to chirche" ('Juliana') down to "seek to the charmers," "to it shall the Gentiles seek," "all the earth sought to Solomon," of the 'A. V.'

WM. HAND BROWNE.

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A sentence from the 'Cura Pastoralis' (p. 171, 24 f.), which contains both *sēcan* and *āscian* with this idiom, is characteristic enough to be added here:

*Ʒæt is, ðonne ðonne ðāra lārēowa hieremenn hwæthwugu gæsðlices tō him sēcað and hī frīnað, ðonne is swiðe micel scand gif hē ðonne færd sēcende hwæt hē sellan scyle, ðonne hē iowan scolde ðæt him mēn tō āscað.*

J. W. BRIGHT.

## "WH" IN AMERICA.

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES:

SIRS:—In Professor SHELDON's suggestive letter on *wh* in MOD. LANG. NOTES for June, he seems to have misunderstood, in a few particulars, my communication to the May number.

I did not mean to imply, as I think Professor SHELDON understands me to have done, that the co-existence of *wh*- and *w*-forms in my speech is a survival of last century English; my point was that a phenomenon that has now manifested itself hereabouts is believed by SWEET to have had its correspondent in the speech of Southern England a century ago.

I did not state that the change of *wh* to *w* in weak forms was paralleled by the change of *f* to *v* in *of*, but that accented exclamatory *wy* was a case of the substitution of the weak form for the strong, and was paralleled by the use of the weak *of* (= *ov*) in accented positions.

Whether *wh* represents *hw* or voiceless *w*, is a question that I purposely avoided, as not essential to the point I was making. It is a puzzling matter: among children brought up

in the same town and school, I have found *hw* side by side with voiceless *w*.

GEORGE HEMPL.

University of Michigan.

THE ETYMOLOGY OF *nüchtern*.

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES:

SIRS:—In the first edition of his Dictionary, KLUGE discards the old derivation of O.H.G. *nuohturn*, *nuohturnin* from Latin *nocturnus*, but offers no other explanation. In the fourth edition, he suggests that in some unexplained way the word may be related to *νήφω*, *νηφάλιος*, etc.

The following explanation is offered as presenting less difficulty:—

*ne*+*uohtā* 'early morning'+*nara*, *nerī* (*libnerī*, etc.) 'food.'

1. *ne-uoht-nar-in*, KLUGE, *Stammbildungslehre* § 199, by metathesis > *nuohturnin*.

2. *ne-uoht-nar-no-*, KLUGE, *ib.* §§ 226, 228, > *nuohtnarn*, by dissimilation > *nuohturn* and *nuohturn* with obscure vowel, like *follust* < *folleist*.

The word, then, is literally *nicht(ge)-frühstück-t* 'imprānsus,' still a very common meaning of the word. O.E. *nixtnig* as well as *nistig* (cf. SIEVERS § 110 A) are to be explained otherwise.

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## SCHILLER TRANSLATION.

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES:

SIRS:—While there is no doubt that BUCHHEIM's translation of SCHILLER's *wirf es entschlossen hin nach deiner Krone* ('Jungfrau von Orleans,' Act i, scene 4) "for the benefit of thy crown" is inadequate, I do not think A. B. NICHOLS' "cast after thy crown" can, as Mr. LAWRENCE maintains, be even literally correct. In order to have this meaning, it must read in prose *wirf es entschlossen Deiner Krone nach*, and there is no metrical difficulty apparent which obliged SCHILLER to change this well-established order of the words.

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